

Remarks

The Examiner's office action of 2/23/2005 rejected claims 1,3-7 and 9-12. The examiner cites the McNeil patent (US Patent No. 5,850,321), as anticipating claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11 and 12. The examiner also cites the McNeil patent as making claims 4 and 10 obvious when read in view of admitted prior art.

However, the McNeil patent is markedly different than the present invention. The teaching of the McNeil patent is to use physical contact between the head and the disk to redistribute lubricant over the disk (See, Col. 8:11-21).

The present invention uses airflows and varied angular velocities ω to redistribute lubricant over the disk. Physical contact between the head and the disk is not used to redistribute lubricant over the disk. The amendments to claims 1 and 7 make it clear that contact between the disk and the head is not used for redistributing lubricant on the disk. It is often advantageous to prevent contact between the head and the disk during operation of a disk drive to prevent wear to either component.

Moreover, the McNeil patent merely states that by "moving the slider 20 between the inner and outer radiuses one or more times, the lubricant can be evenly distributed over the entire range of motion." Col. 8:8:29-31. The McNeil patent does not teach that this motion could be performed at various angular velocities ω as contemplated by the claims of the present invention.

Conclusion

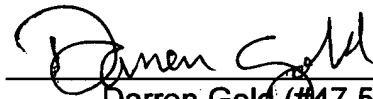
Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended. It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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